

260 East Main St.
Middletown, CT 06457
December 8, 2009

State of Connecticut
State Legislators
Appropriation Committee members

I Elsy Benitez-Vargas do oppose the cutting of Family School Connection programs. I am the parent of three elementary school children, and a recipient of the benefits and services of this program. . This program has filled a gap in my parenting skills and has allowed me to learn appropriate interventions to ensure my children's success in school and in life. I have received coaching into community resources that I never knew could work for my family's benefit.

It is of the outmost importance to give the right level of value to prevention programs. You would not consider it appropriate to stop childhood vaccines, would you? The consequences would be much too costly and not worth the savings. After working for the Department of Children and Families for a decade, I have seen first hand the consequences of lack of prevention programs such as Family School Connection. We are providing DCF and its intervention programs with one of the largest state budgets, yet their success rates are very low. Remember that for every dollar spent in prevention we save seven in intervention.

Elsy Benitez-Vargas